

TO: Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Community Group Practice Providers

FROM: Nicole Loeven, PhD, D(ABMM), Assistant Medical Director of Microbiology
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Re: Temporary Change in Mycobacterial Blood Culture Collection Container

Situation

Dartmouth Health's current supply of glass Myco/F Lytic bottles used for recovery of mycobacteria (acid fast bacilli) are expiring after February 18, 2025. Due to unanticipated delays in verification of new mycobacterial blood culture bottles, blood specimens submitted for mycobacteria culture will temporarily be sent out to Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

Background

The manufacturer of Myco/F Lytic bottles has transitioned from producing glass bottles to exclusively manufacturing plastic bottles. The DHMC Microbiology Laboratory is still in the process of conducting the required verification study for implementation of plastic Myco/F Lytic bottles.

Assessment

Due to the imminent expiration of our existing supply of glass Myco/F Lytic bottles and the delay in completion of the verification studies, blood culture for mycobacteria will temporarily be sent out to Mayo Clinic Laboratories and will require a different collection container from usual.

Recommendation

For patients with suspicion of disseminated mycobacterial infection:

1. Order "Mycobacteria (Acid Fast Bacilli) Culture" ([LAB877](#)) as you would normally
2. Collect **8-10mL** (5mL minimum) blood in a **sodium heparin tube (dark green top, PS#: 0146494)**

Once received, the DHMC Microbiology Laboratory will route specimens for shipment to Mayo Clinic Laboratories for [mycobacterial culture](#).

Culture results will be scanned into the patient's medical record by the DHMC Microbiology Laboratory as preliminary and final results are available.

This delay impacts only Myco/F Lytic blood culture bottles, **not** aerobic, anaerobic or pediatric bottles used routinely for recovery of bacteria and yeasts.

A follow-up SBAR will be disseminated when testing is brought back in house.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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